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**William Shirley, Governor of Massachusetts, 1741-56.** By George Arthur Wood, Ph.D. (Assistant Professor in Ohio State University). Vol. I, Pp. 433. Columbia University Studies, New York, 1920.

Dr. Wood, writing under the guidance of the late Professor Herbert L. Osgood and Professor William A. Dunning, has contributed an excellent study of Governor Shirley's early career from 1731 to 1749, as a leader of the Boston bar, Advocate-General of Admiralty, and Governor. A promised second volume will complete the story of Shirley and his times, with a wealth of accurate detail, such as we have of probably no other colonial governor. While such a work may seem unnecessarily long, and at times tediously long, yet Shirley's life covered a period of colonial and Massachusetts history, which, through neglect and a generally accepted dictum of its minor importance, has been shrouded in darkness. Apparently this attitude has been the doom of the eighteenth century in England as well as in America. However, this volume and similar monographs are compelling a recognition that the formative fifty-year period after the overthrow of Andros along with the Stuart dynasty offers an interpretation and understanding of pre-Revolutionary problems and political philosophy. A well-selected bibliography with two pages of manuscript items deserves special note.

R. J. P.

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**English Towns in the War of the Roses.** By James E. Winston. Princeton University Press, 1921. Pp. 82.

Doctor Winston, of Tulane University, has written this account of the attitude of the English boroughs in the Civil War of the Roses, as a dissertation under Professor E. P. Cheyney of the University of Pennsylvania, though the original suggestion came from the late Charles Gross of Harvard. The labor involved was tremendous, for a study of municipalities requires endless reading and minute research, fraught with meagre results. The author, finding it impossible to delve in the borough archives, was forced to content himself with printed sources and town and county histories, whose writers, presumably, were familiar with the manuscript local materials.

The results of the study are negative, rather than positive. However, in a survey of London, York, Bristol, Coventry, Nor-

wich, Lincoln, Southampton, and some score of lesser boroughs, Dr. Winston adduces sufficient information to prove that the general historians have been woefully ignorant of the part played by the cities in the dynastic struggle. In following the fortunes of the great barons, they have assumed a lack of municipal interest, save where self-interest and trade actuated the burghers. They have considered the cities inconstant in their devotion to either side, willing to open their gates to the victor of the moment, but unwilling to furnish their quota of archers. Whatever leanings there were toward the House of York have been assigned to the merchants' belief that York favored trade, while Lancaster had proven himself weak in enforcing order, in protecting trade, and in defending the Cinque Ports.

The author avows that the towns were fairly constant, and that while their complexion was Yorkist, every borough had a large Lancastrian following. London, which had a decisive influence in the wars of Stephen and Matilda, had stood by Archbishop Langton against John, Simon de Montfort against Henry III, gave its allegiance to the Yorkist party. The cities, of course, bargained well, obtaining charters of privileges, which freed them from royal and baronial exactions. Dr. Winston doubts if the old theory of a backward north and west England for Lancaster and conservatism, and a progressive, wealthy, south and east England for the Yorkists as the popular faction would hold. Exceptions, he is certain of in sufficient number to deny that any section presented a uniform political coloring. The old theory of a roughly divided England, he cannot refute, but only question.

R. J. P.

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**The English Catholic Revival in the Nineteenth Century.** By Paul Thureau-Dangin. Revised and re-edited from a translation by the late Wilfrid Wilberforce. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co. Two vols. Pp. lxiv+468; 642.

One is at a loss to say anything new about this book. Twenty years ago M. Thureau-Dangin set about to give French readers an account of the Oxford Movement and in this English translation gave English readers as well their first adequate history of it. Based on all the then available literature of the subject